

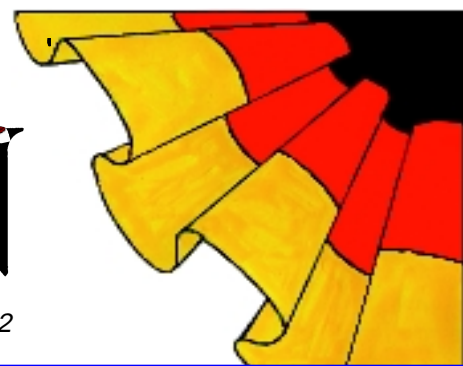


# THE CITIZEN

Vol. 31, No. 23

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

November 19, 2002



Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

## INSIDE THIS EDITION



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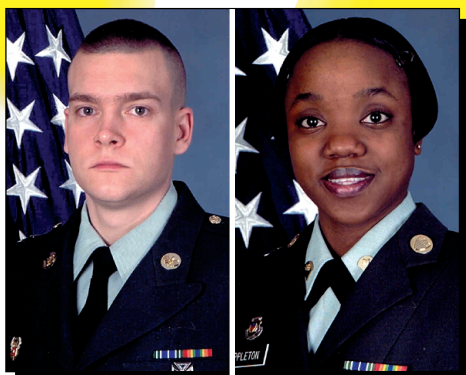
### 6th ASG mailrooms need volunteers

*Anticipating a 40-percent increase in mail during the holiday season, area officials ask community members to lend a hand.*

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### Top soldier, NCO honored

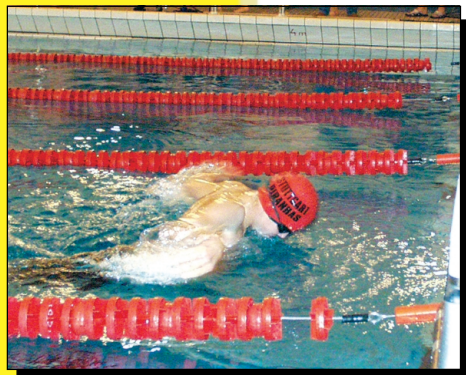
*Stuttgart's 52nd Signal Battalion recognizes Sgt. Chris Scheurmier and Spc. Andrea Appleton for exemplary performance on the job and throughout the community.*



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### Piranhas chomp competition

*Determination, dedication and a willingness to wake up very early fuel Stuttgart's Piranhas to excellence in the water and on dry land.*



## Ich bin ein 'Bear'liner?

*During a visit to Berlin, Tricia Knauff, 4, snuggles up to one of the 571 "Buddy Bears" that adorn the sidewalks of Germany's capital city.*

*The bears are part of a citywide promotion that will ultimately raise funds for children's charities.*

*For more about the Berlin trip and the Garmisch man who is responsible for this and other European adventures, turn to page 3.*





## FROM THE EDITOR

### My European Misadventure, Part II

There's no bad situation that can't be made just that much worse by the realization that it's all your fault.

On a night train to Venice that – contrary to the reassurances of the Deutsche Bahn ticket agent – had no room in the sleeping car, I did the last thing I should ever do when confronted with a problem: I tried to solve it.

When the seating compartment that I shared with my wife and our two guests from the States was invaded by additional passengers a few hours after midnight, I set off in search of more inviting accommodations. Finding empty spaces in the very next car, I summoned my wife, whose unfortunate decision to follow my lead can only be attributed to sleep deprivation.

Nestling into the relative comfort of six otherwise empty seats, I drifted off to sleep a content man, proud of my ability to provide a quiet, quasi-comfortable space in which my bride could enjoy a few hours of shuteye.

This sensation of misguided self-esteem was short-lived, lasting only until we awakened and began to prepare for our imminent (or so we thought) arrival in Venice.

Imagine our surprise to find only rapidly receding train tracks on the other side of the door that once would have led us to the car containing our guests (along with our tickets and luggage – and my shoes). While we dozed, the train had entered a station – where the cars headed for Venice were reattached to another engine, while the one we had moved into continued on to points as yet unknown.

Thanks to the wonders of cellular telephones and the understanding (pity?) of several amazing employees of the Italian rail system, our guests were informed of our "detour," and they (and my shoes!) were waiting for us at the station when we arrived three hours later.

Lessons learned:

■ Every day, in myriad ways, life gives us little signs to clue us in on the path that lies before us. It behooves us to be sensitive to these messages (even the ones that are more subtle than "Bologna" printed in large red letters).

■ As the Boy Scouts so wisely remind us, preparation is essential. When voyaging into uncharted territory, it is best to remain in the general vicinity of one's footwear.

■ Finally, any lousy day that concludes with a moonlit walk through the Piazza San Marco really wasn't that lousy of a day after all. -HCM

## THE CITIZEN

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# Security forces deserve respect

By Jennifer Sanders

*Commentary*

The rain came tumbling down, a constant beating on their rain jackets and kevlar. The temperatures fluctuated wildly, though they mostly remained in the chilly zone – dipping especially low at night to make it a bit more challenging.

And even though the troops in Stuttgart's recent force protection exercise didn't get a break from Mother Nature, they took the weather in stride and pressed on. They had a purpose – a mission to ensure a safe and secure environment for community members – and every service member took it seriously.

"We understood it was training, but we knew it could turn serious at any time," said Spc. Mika Gant, a personnel administrator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Area Support Group.

Gant, who patrolled and pulled guard shack duty on the 12-hour night shift, said he and his team members hit the ground running each time they headed out into the darkness.

The 20-year-old explained that through his force protection experiences, he determined teamwork to be the name of the game. Gant said that each team player has important responsibilities and positions, much like those on a basketball or football team. "Team leaders told us we had a mission," Gant said, "and we kept our minds on that mission."

"After Sept. 11 we got about three months' experience doing this on and off," he said, referring to maintaining increased force protection levels following terrorist attacks in the United States. However, Gant said he understands exer-

cises are necessary, and he doesn't feel any training can be too much training.

Also, the Indianapolis, Ind., native said he thinks the residents of the Stuttgart military community appreciate what he and his teammates are doing every time they gear up and participate in training exercises.

"The people in the community were really good," Gant said, which in turn makes him feel good about his mission and the long hours he puts in daily. "They knew this was an exercise but they were very cooperative and supportive."

Looking through the young soldier's eyes, I got a glimpse of and a renewed appreciation for the teamwork that is necessary for security successes. I also got a reality check about the importance of this effort.

I admit that too often the frustration of getting to work late or arriving home after dinner time due to traffic checks at the gate can make me forget the importance of force protection exercises and the respect due the troops involved.

I applaud the spirit, determination and dedication of the men and women in uniform who participated in the week-long training – and those who stand sentry at our installation gates all day every day, in all types of weather and on every holiday.

Reflecting on the time I spent with Gant and his colleagues, I'm pretty sure that the next delay I encounter at an installation gate – when I'm forced to "endure" a five-minute wait from the warmth and shelter of my car – won't seem like such a hardship after all.

*Sanders is the 6th ASG public affairs officer.*

## Good or bad, examples set standards

By Thayne Andersen

*Commentary*

We all have learned from others. Even animals and insects learn from the example set for them by others of their kind.

As my children grew to adulthood, I wanted to set an example that they would benefit from. I knew that whatever I did, they saw and learned from my actions.

One saying I believe in goes like this: "The best thing you can do as a father for your children is to love their mother." The implied message is that the children will see your example and follow it.

One experiment was done in grade school that demonstrated this principle.

The teacher had two colors of M&Ms. She explained that the M&Ms she held in her hand were pretty much the same except for color, but that one was a lot better for you to eat.

She said that she was going to allow each child only one M&M, but they

could take any one they wanted. She then ate the one that she said was less desirable to eat.

The children overwhelmingly chose the color that the teacher ate, even though she said it was less desirable.

I deal professionally every day with problems that people get into by drinking too much, drinking in the wrong situations or otherwise acting inappropriately while consuming alcoholic beverages.

I often try to find out who these people learned their drinking from – who did they use to teach them inappropriate behavior?

The answer all too often boils down to the fact that they learned their bad drinking behavior at home or in early adolescence. They watched their parents – and in either good or bad examples, they learned.

They learned how much to drink.

They learned how to lie about their drinking or its effects.

They learned how much to buy.

They learned how to beg forgiveness – and get it.

They learned that it is all right to sometimes get plastered or break promises by claiming that they were drunk and didn't know what they were doing.

They learned how to hide drinks.

No matter how much the youth hate the drinking, they tend to replicate it.

The same is true in the military. Newly arriving soldiers learn how to drink from the leaders – even when they don't yet know the dangers associated with drinking alcohol.

When high-ranking people make sure that there is an overabundance of alcohol at their parties, they are setting a poor example for the next generation.

When the leaders cover up for each other, they can expect that the NCOs will cover for each other as well.

Live a good example – not just for the youth, but for yourself as well.

*Anderson is a drug and alcohol abuse counselor in Bad Aibling.*

## THORNS 'N ROSES

### Halloween display delights trick-or-treaters

From community submissions



#### Roses to:

**The Choate Family** for the outstanding Halloween display for the trick-or-treaters on Robinson Barracks. All your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

**The Patch Dental Clinic**, which recently hosted a Dental Fair that gave the retired military community in the Stuttgart area the opportunity for examinations, cleanings and minor dental repairs.

Almost 50 retirees took advantage of this wonderful show of solidarity among the "Army family" (although retirees of all services were included). The entire dental staff deserves the highest praise for their friendliness, helpfulness and competence. Thanks from all those who were served.

**The children of Patch Barracks** who on Halloween gave some of their treats to the two German children standing on

the other side of the K&K gate watching what we do on Halloween night. This shows that our children are part of a caring and sharing generation.

#### Thorns to:

**Thorns to the Robinson Barracks families** who left piles of boxes next to the paper recycling bins at the Hilltop Hotel (your names and address were all over the boxes). Show some pride in your community! Clean up after yourselves. This is a constant problem and an eyesore.

**The people who park in the Patch Shoppette parking lot** all day and don't heed the signs that designate the lot for short-term parking.

Send comments to Thorns 'n Roses, The Citizen, CMR 423, APO AE 09107, fax 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570 or e-mail to citizen@6asg.army.mil.





**Commissioned in the 18th century by Friedrich Wilhelm II to represent peace, Germany's Brandenburg Gate became a symbol of a divided nation during the years of the Berlin Wall. It is one of the most popular attractions for tourists who visit the reunified city, as a contingent of 6th Area Support Group residents did recently.**

## Garmisch group tours Berlin

### *Trip just one of several outings sponsored by Artillery Kaserne's Pete Burke Center*

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

An afternoon with Austin Powers or an evening at the opera. A stroll down the shopping district or a walk through history. Regardless of one's entertainment tastes, a tour with Paul Dutro is almost sure to incorporate a travelers' personal preferences into an insider's view of one of Europe's great cities.

Dutro, the recreation director at the Garmisch Area Support Team's Pete Burke Lodge, has been introducing area military community members to the wonders around them since the 1970s.

A native of Zanesville, Ohio, Dutro moved to Garmisch-Partenkirchen after a visit on what he jokingly described as "one of the five great [weather] days we have here every year. If that day had been a typical gray, rainy one, my life would have turned out totally different."

Originally hired by the Armed Forces Recreation Center, Dutro eventually parlayed his knowledge of European culture and his willingness to shepherd Americans throughout the continent into his current position.

"Paul knows all the good places to go," said 14-year-old Whitney Hershey, a veteran of Dutro-led excursions. Hershey accompanied her mother, Monica, and 22 other area residents on a four-day tour of Berlin in early November.

Monica Hershey, who described a recent group voyage to Urbino, Italy, as "an absolutely marvelous trip," said Dutro's outings are marked by a mixture of cultural information, fine dining and plenty of opportunities to explore on one's own.

The Berlin trip held special significance for Clarissa Duser, a native of Garmisch-Partenkirchen who recently retired from a nursing career with the U.S. military.

Duser was visiting Germany's capital for the first time since 1977, a time when the Berlin Wall precluded most travel into the then Soviet-controlled East Berlin. She said her main goal during her return was to walk through the Brandenburg Gate, which for many years symbolized Germany's division.

Duser said her 1977 visit included a specially arranged bus tour of East Berlin. During this brief peek behind the "Iron Curtain," a government-approved guide harangued Duser and her fellow tourists with a pro-communist, anti-American lecture, while prohibiting the sightseers from asking questions or stepping off the bus.

"It was like being in prison," Duser said. "I couldn't wait to get off the bus [in West Berlin] and breathe the free air again."

*For more information about Paul Dutro's tours, call the Pete Burke Center at 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-461 or e-mail paul.dutro@garmisch.army.mil.*



**Paul Dutro, left, explains a bit about a Berlin neighborhood for tour group members Nov. 8.**



**Beneath the Berliner Dom, this cathedral altar is evidence of Berlin's rich history of Protestantism.**

## Garmisch Beat

### *Thanksgiving dinner in Garmisch*

Due to an increase in single and unaccompanied individuals in Garmisch, the Garmisch Chapel is sponsoring a Thanksgiving dinner for single service members, civilians and retirees Nov. 24, 6 p.m., in the Pete Burke Center.

For information call 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-819 or e-mail ronald.benzing@garmisch.army.mil. The deadline for reservations is Nov. 20.

### *Chapel hosts Thanksgiving service*

All community members are invited to attend a Thanksgiving worship service Nov. 27, 7 p.m., in the Garmisch Chapel.

### *Tree-lighting at the Burke Center*

Garmisch's community tree-lighting ceremony – complete with a visit from Santa – is Dec. 2 outside the Pete Burke Center. For details call 440-2654/civ. 08821-750-654.

### *Elementary school hosts book fair*

The Garmisch American School Parent Teacher Association is sponsoring a book fair in Garmisch Elementary School.

The sale is Nov. 25 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Nov. 26 (8 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and Nov. 27 (8 a.m. to noon). Cash and checks are accepted.

### *Stuttgart Law Center visits Garmisch*

Personnel from the Stuttgart Law Center will be on Artillery Kaserne (building 202, room 109) Nov. 19 and 20.

Hours for walk-ins and powers of attorney are 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m.

For details call 430-4226/civ. 0711-680-4226.

### *Opera trip to Munich*

The Pete Burke Center's next opera trip to Munich is Nov. 20. Tickets are available from 30 to 60 euros.

For more information call 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-461.

### *Sauna renovation underway*

Construction on the Mueller Fitness Center's sauna is proceeding on schedule. The sauna should reopen by the end of November.

### *Crafts Tree offers classes*

The Crafts Tree (Garmisch's Morale, Welfare and Recreation crafts center) is hosting the following classes for community members:

- **Wreath workshop** (Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.): Learn to decorate a cheerful holiday wreath for yourself or as a handcrafted gift. The cost is \$8 for the one-session class, and children are welcome to accompany and assist their parents at no extra charge.

- **Ceramics for beginners** (Sundays, 11 a.m.): Pour and complete three class projects. The class fee of \$25 includes all needed supplies as well as shop and firing fees. Space is limited, so please call in advance to register

- **Piano instruction:** Individual instruction is available for children and adults, beginners and advanced students.

The Crafts Tree is located on Artillery Kaserne (building 263). Its hours of operation are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 8 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about these and other classes call 442-2888/civ. 08821-759-888.

### *Library sponsors storytime*

Children ages 30 months to 6 years old are invited to attend storytime in the Garmisch Community Library (inside the Pete Burke Center) Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

Activities include stories, flannel board tales and special crafts. No advance registration is necessary.

For details call 440-2467/civ. 08821-750-467 or e-mail libstaff@garmisch.army.mil.

### *GCSC meets monthly for lunch*

The Garmisch Civilian Spouses' Club has begun meeting the second Friday of every month for lunch in various Garmisch-Partenkirchen restaurants.

To reserve a seat at the next lunch, call Catherine Wrighter at 08821-730-216.

### *"Grease" staged in Innsbruck*

The musical "Grease" will be staged Nov. 19 and 20, 8 p.m., in Innsbruck's Olympiahalle. For more information visit [www.raiffeisen-tirol.at/club](http://www.raiffeisen-tirol.at/club).



OBITUARIES

**William Royster Jr., 43**  
*Bartender at Stuttgart’s Back Lot Club*

William Royster Jr., a 6th Area Support Group employee in Stuttgart, died Oct. 27 of cardiac arrest.

Royster, a 43-year-old civilian employee who worked as a Back Lot Club bartender, was pronounced dead at the Kreiskrankenhaus in Nagold, Germany.

He was a member of the American Legion, Stuttgart Post #6, and the Back Lot softball team.

Royster is survived by his wife, Heike; daughters Denise and Vanessa; sons Thomas and Christopher; his mother, Mary, of New York; two brothers and six sisters.

**Timothy Hershberger, 37**  
*Marshall Center employee*

Timothy Hershberger, a Marshall Center civilian employee, died Nov. 4 of a heart attack.

Hershberger, 37 years old, was pronounced dead at his residence.

He is survived by his mother, Joanne, and his brother, Michael.

**Infant Micah J. Butler**

Micah J. Butler, the two-month-old son of Sgt. and Mrs. Gregory Butler, died Nov. 3 on Patch Barracks.

A memorial was held Nov. 8 in the Patch Chapel.

**Regulations restrict residents’ use of attics, maids’ quarters**

By Hugh C. McBride

Confronted with the space shortages that often accompany on-post housing, many military families have been using their stairwell’s attics and maids’ quarters for personal storage, meeting rooms, play areas and even guest bedrooms.

However, not only does this practice pose risks to both person and property, but it is also prohibited by Army regulation, U.S. Army Europe regulations and 6th Area Support Group policy.

Because on-post, multiple-family housing units within the 6th ASG contain several different types of attic spaces, Commander’s Policy #50 was created to clarify which spaces may be used by residents (and what type of use is acceptable).

The policy addresses attics and maids’ quarters as follows:

■ *Unfinished attics*

According to the policy, unfinished attic spaces – those with bare rafters, whether renovated or not – may not be used for any purpose.

Storing property in or using unfinished attics as playrooms, gathering places, temporary living spaces or any other activity is prohibited.

Except during inspections and maintenance, unfinished attics are to be locked at all times.

Building coordinators are responsible for maintaining the keys to these rooms.

■ *Finished attics in renovated buildings*

Finished attics in renovated buildings fall under the same restrictions as those for unfinished attics (described above).

Finished attics in renovated buildings are to be accessed only for inspection and maintenance, and are not to be used for any living or storage purposes.

The restrictions placed on these spaces are due to fire codes that require sprinkler systems to be in place before the spaces can be used.

■ *Finished attics in unrenovated buildings*

Because unrenovated buildings do not fall under the same fire codes as do renovated buildings, finished attics in these buildings have been “grandfathered” regarding the sprinkler requirements.

Thus, residents of unrenovated buildings that contain finished attics may continue to use these spaces for storage until the buildings are renovated.

■ *Maids’ quarters*

The policy letter states that buildings with finished maids’ rooms in the attics may be used for storage (but for no other purposes).

Building coordinators and stairwell coordinators are responsible for assigning spaces to residents for storage purposes.

Commander’s Policy #50 may be accessed online at [www.stuttgart.army.mil/policyletters/50.doc](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/policyletters/50.doc).



# Mailrooms need help for the holidays

Officials call on community volunteers to assist with Christmas mail

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride



**James W. Johnson, a year-round volunteer in the Patch mailroom, routes parcels during the 2001 holiday season. All mailrooms need volunteers to help cope with the annual post-Thanksgiving onslaught of mail.**

## Holiday mailing deadlines

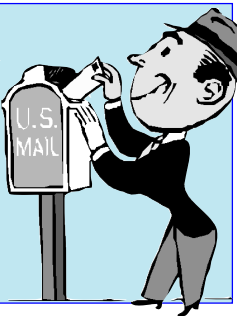
To ensure that letters and packages arrive in the United States before Christmas, observe the following dates:

Space-available mail: **Nov. 20**

Parcel airlift mail: **Dec. 4**

Priority parcels & 1st class letters: **Dec. 11**

Express mail: **Dec. 18**



While it may be true that “neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night” can stop the mail from getting through, a few thousand extra packages can definitely slow things down a bit.

In anticipation of the annual holiday crush of cards and packages, 6th Area Support Group officials are asking the community for a helping hand to ensure that all parcels make it to their destinations in time for Christmas morning.

“Our mail increases by 40 percent during the holidays,” said Mike Geoghegan, 6th ASG postal officer. “We need volunteers to help get our mail [processed] sooner.”

Geoghegan and Capt. Martin Cheman, 6th ASG adjutant, said consolidated mailrooms on all installations – especially the facility at the Stuttgart Army Airfield – need volunteers through Jan. 25.

Community members who volunteer can sort mail into individual boxes, perform window service duties (primarily handing out packages) and write out receipts for parcels.

Geoghegan said volunteers can work as much or as little as they like, and are welcome to select whatever available duties appeal to them. Some individuals donate hours on a regular basis, he said, while others stop by to lend a hand on a more infrequent – though no less appreciated – basis.

“Some volunteers are waiting for a bus, so they stop in and help out for a half hour or so,” Geoghegan said. “Any bit of time is welcome. We’re about customer service, and our volunteers are still our customers.”

*The 6th ASG is dependent upon the generosity and contributions of community volunteers.*

**Capt. Martin Cheman**  
6th Area Support Group

Cheman said a particularly strong need for additional help exists at the Stuttgart Army Airfield, which is staffed by members of the 510th Postal Services Battalion. The 510th can usually count on a contingent of augmentees at holiday time to help get the additional mail to the installations in a timely manner, Cheman said, but this year no additional help is scheduled.

“They really need volunteer help at the airfield this year,” Cheman said, adding that community members have traditionally played a crucial role in ensuring that there are no empty spaces beneath local Christmas trees. “The 6th ASG is highly dependent upon the generosity and contribution of community volunteers to manage the mail through the holidays,” he said.

To volunteer in Stuttgart call Nicole Johnson, installation volunteer coordinator, at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176. In Garmisch call Army Community Service at 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777.



# Stuttgart celebrates Thanksgiving



**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**Nov. 28 (noon to 4 p.m.)**  
**Swabian Special Events Center**  
**\$5.25 per person**  
*For details call Carl Perry*  
*(430-7104/civ. 0711-680-7104)*

**Thanksgiving Service**  
**Nov. 27 (6:30 p.m.)**  
**Patch Chapel**

## Local Beat

### Tree-lighting ceremonies in Stuttgart

The following Christmas tree-lighting ceremonies – with receptions for children to meet Santa – will be held in Stuttgart: Dec. 3, 5 p.m., on Patch Barracks (in Washington Square); Dec. 4, 5 p.m., on Kelley Barracks (at the flag pole adjacent to the shoppette); Dec. 5, 5 p.m., on Robinson Barracks (Friendship Grove, next to the Community Club); Dec. 6, 5 p.m., on Panzer Kaserne (outside the Chapel).

### Patch to temporarily lose 200 parking spaces

An event on Patch Barracks will result in the loss of two hundred parking spaces Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. It is recommended that those who both live and work on Patch walk to work, while those who live on other installations use the shuttle service or car pool to commute to Patch.

### Patch skate park takes winter break

The Patch skate park will be disassembled and stored during the winter season. It will be reinstalled in the first week of May 2003.

### Great American Smokeout observed Nov. 21

To commemorate the 26th annual Great American Smokeout, a free fun run/walk will be held Nov. 21, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., on Patch Barracks. Refreshments will be served and all participants will receive a free T-shirt.

Members of Teens Against Tobacco Use will give a presentation before the run begins.

All community members are invited to participate. For details call the Stuttgart Wellness Center at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.

### Support Boy Scouts' Christmas tree sale

Boy Scout Troop 324 is hosting its annual Christmas tree sale Nov. 29 and 30 and Dec. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22 across the street from the new car sales lot on Patch Barracks. Sale hours will be Thursdays and Fridays starting at 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays during PX hours. Prices range from \$25 to \$45.

### DODDS offers Child Find screenings

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools will conduct a Child Find screening Dec. 6 in Patch Elementary School. To schedule an appointment call 420-6365/civ. 0711-819-6365.

### WIC-Overseas coming to Stuttgart

The Women, Infants and Children Overseas program is scheduled to arrive in Stuttgart in early December. For details about WIC-Overseas call Army Community Service at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

## “Annie” comes to Kelley Theatre



Evening performances  
Nov. 22, 23, 24 & 30  
Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15  
(7:30 p.m.)  
Matinees  
Nov. 30; Dec. 8 & 14  
(3 p.m.)

For tickets call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825 or  
log onto [www.kelleytheatre.de](http://www.kelleytheatre.de)



## Army group lauds DPW employee

By Maria Higgins

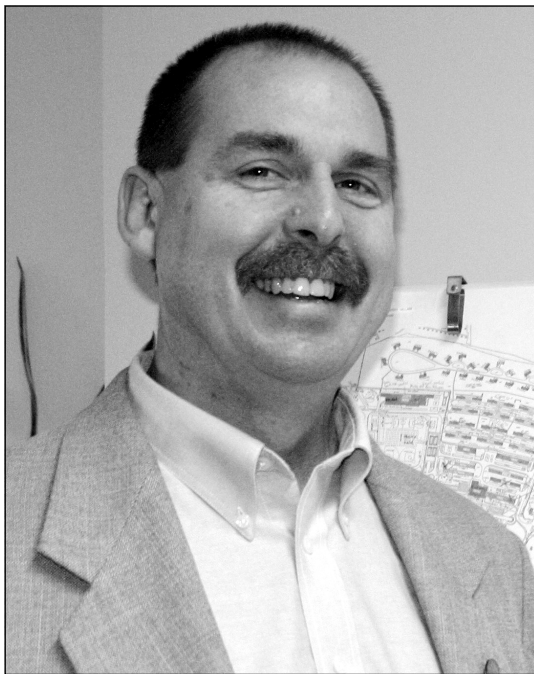
The needs and wants of 6th Area Support Group community members are often two different beasts; taming them so they can co-exist within one budget takes talent.

Deputy Director of Public Works Mike Schmidt has this skill, according to a national organization that recently named him Outstanding Department of the Army Civilian of the Year, European department.

Schmidt was bestowed with a citation for exceptional service by the Association of the United States Army, a private, nonprofit group which advances the interests of America's Army – its active-duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilian and retiree members and their families.

In notifying the deputy director of his award, AUSA Stuttgart's Chapter president, retired Col. David Beckner, wrote, "Having managed the community operations here some years ago, I am well aware of the special expectations our residents have, of the disparate organizational structures and demands, and of the constraints on resources which characterize DPW operations. Thank you for the skills and energy you bring to your work."

Schmidt, who balances volunteer work for his children's school,



Schmidt

sports teams and church along with his Army responsibilities, has served the government for 19 years.

Of all his duties, he most enjoys maximizing what he calls "quality of life projects" such as playground renovations. Among the improvements he headed were recycling island upgrades and renovations to the car registration and shipping facilities, all "front-line places" with high traffic, he said.

A less visible but much-appreciated effort he spearheaded converted a 16-unit Panzer stairwell dwelling into roomier quarters for eight officers and their families.

The tricky part of his job, Schmidt said, is continuing to design desirable projects while at the same time "ensuring that the infrastructure is taken care of – making sure your water, electricity and sewer are all running properly," he said.

Schmidt's supervisor, DPW Director Lt. Col. Josef Hallatschek, said the "invaluable" Schmidt is "customer oriented" and "the man behind the scenes" in DPW.

"His efforts can be seen throughout the community, from playgrounds to multimillion-dollar renovation projects," Hallatschek said.

The AUSA award selection committee determined that Schmidt's "extraordinary ability to plan" results in projects that meet customer expectations for time, cost and quality.

It also recognized specific achievements, such as an enhanced customer feedback process and streamlined repair services.

In addition to the AUSA honor, Schmidt has received the Engineering Resource Manager of the Year Award for Public Works, given by the Directorate of Engineering and Housing.

He has also been named the Federal Manager of the Year for the Honolulu/Pacific Area, from the Federal Executive Board Honolulu/Pacific Region.

## 52nd Signal announces NCO, Soldier of Year

By Christie Lawler

Attention to detail, exemplary job performance and community involvement are just a few characteristics shared by the 52nd Signal Battalion's soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year.

Spc. Andrea Appleton, an administrative specialist, has risen above the best in her unit to not only become a soldier of the quarter during 2001, but to be crowned Soldier of the Year. Likewise, Sgt. Chris Scheurmier, the Crisis Contingency Satellite Site noncommissioned officer in charge, was chosen to represent the Patch Barracks-based unit as NCO of the Year.

Both Appleton and Scheurmier plan to make the Army a career, and one of their leaders, 52nd Signal Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Baker, agrees with their decision. "These two soldiers have the qualities that the Army of the future is looking for," he said.

Appleton, still in her first enlistment period, said that this honor has

illustrated how far she has progressed and has inspired her to set higher goals for herself. "It shows me how much more I can achieve," she said.

In October, Scheurmier reconfirmed his commitment to the Army with his second enlistment.

He credits winning the a NCO of the Year award to hard work and competition. "I strived hard and studied long to compete and win," he said. "I'm honored to have the title."

In order to be considered for the awards, soldiers must demonstrate numerous qualities and master several skills deemed invaluable to their jobs. They must also prepare and give a five- to seven-minute presentation relating to their position and responsibilities. "The NCO and soldier board is an Army tradition that dates back over 150 years," Baker said.

The board – which meets every quarter – consists of five senior NCOs and Baker. They are looking for, Baker said, "the best of the best."

Once a soldier is chosen for the annual award, that person receives not only the pride that comes with a job well done, but also added bonuses in the form of the Army Achievement Medal and certificates and vouchers from various vendors in the community.



Scheurmier



Appleton

### Native American Heritage Month Celebration

Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Patch Community Club

Guest Speaker: David Lee



# AFAP aims to improve area services

By Hugh C. McBride

Wanted: community members who are concerned about the quality of life in the 6th Area Support Group, interested in effecting positive change and willing to devote one afternoon to the cause.

Benefits: the ability to brainstorm and network with individuals who share common concerns, the opportunity to bring issues and suggestions to the attention of 6th ASG Commander Col. Larry Stubblefield, and a free lunch.

Stuttgart's next Army Family Action Plan symposium is scheduled for Jan. 23 in Patch Barracks' Swabian Special Events Center, and volunteer delegates are needed to fulfill a variety of roles.

Sponsored by Army Community Service, the annual conference is part of an Armywide process to identify areas of community concern, bring these issues to the appropriate level of attention and track their progress toward resolution.

Since the first AFAP symposium in 1984, the process has resulted in 60 pieces of legislation, 126 policy changes and the initiation or improvement of 125 programs and services.

Success stories from previous AFAP conferences include increasing the Army's Family Separation Allowance from \$75 to \$100 per month, and creating the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program.

Delegates in the Stuttgart conference will work in one of five groups: Consumer Services, Medical and Dental Services, Youth and Education Services, Housing/Relocation/Employment and Family Support.

Each group will identify and prioritize needed improvements within its given field, then work with subject matter experts to propose solutions. At the conclusion of the event, representatives from each work group will present their recommendations to Stubblefield.

"It is easy to complain; it's a lot harder to roll up your sleeves and try to improve things," said delegate Rachel Brown, who participated in the Consumer Services group at the 2002 AFAP symposium. "AFAP gives people a chance to vent...but then you have to put your heads together as a group and come up with solutions. It's a positive approach and a positive experience."

During the conference, each group selects three issues within their field to forward to the commander. Once these issues are determined, group members work to define each issue's impact and suggest concrete, measurable steps to resolve the problems.

Caroline Orama, AFAP coordinator, said the symposium is just one part of a year-round process. After a briefing by the AFAP steering committee, Stubblefield will classify each of the work group's final issues as either active or unattainable.

Issues that can be solved within the ASG will be assigned to the appropriate departments, while those that exceed local authority will be forwarded to the major command AFAP symposium.

The steering committee meets quarterly to monitor the progress of the active issues. Community members can track this process online at [www.stuttgart.army.mil/afap](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/afap).

*‘ It is easy to complain; it’s a lot harder to roll up your sleeves and try to improve things.*

**Rachel Brown**  
*2002 AFAP delegate*

## Top recommendations from previous AFAP conferences in Stuttgart:

### Youth and Education Services:

- Hire monitors for school buses.
- Establish a more appropriate age breakdown for School Age Services programs.
- Implement a more effective transition process for seventh graders entering Patch High School.

### Consumer Services:

- Improve facilities and opportunities for teens.
- Increase available parking on Patch Barracks.
- Expand capacity and improve customer-service at local retail facilities.

### Medical and Dental Services:

- Add a full-time pediatrician to the Stuttgart Health Clinic staff.
- Modify post-illness readmission policy for children in Child Development centers.
- Improve phone system at Stuttgart Health and Dental clinics.

### Housing/Relocation/Employment:

- Establish legal residence for service members, civilians and family members stationed overseas.
- Create a unified housing policy for single service members.

For details contact Orama at 430-4135/civ. 0711-680-4315.

## AFAP needs volunteers

*\* Identify & resolve issues \*  
affecting military life.*

*\* Improve the quality of life \*  
within the 6th ASG.*

*\* Serve as a delegate \*  
in the following areas:*

Consumer Services  
Youth & Education  
Medical & Dental  
Family Support  
Housing, Relocation & Employment

For details call 430-7176/  
civ. 0711-680-7176  
or e-mail  
[oramac@6asg.army.mil](mailto:oramac@6asg.army.mil)



# Morale Call: *more than just a party*

Story and Photo by Kimberly Lovins

Each month European Command Reserve Affairs hosts a morale call for the reservists. The event is not only a time for augmentees to enjoy free food and drink, but an opportunity for them to get to know each other, since many are coming from different parts of the country and career fields. It is also a time for ECRA and others to say, "Thank you, you are appreciated."

In October, ECRA invited all reservists to the Patch Barracks Back Lot. But this was not a typical morale call, because many of the reservists were saying goodbye to their fellow soldiers after having served a year supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We wanted to give them one more [morale call] before many of them left," said ECRA's Capt. Richard Saunders. The bulk of the reservists were called to duty due to Sept. 11, he noted.

To defray the costs of the morale calls, money is donated by companies that have given up an employee to reserve duty or that wish to show their appreciation. The October event was sponsored by the American Legion Post 6 and the Marriott Hotel in Knoxville, Tenn.

European Command Command Sgt. Maj. John Mersino, who had returned from Bosnia the previous day, attended the morale call to thank the reservists for their sacrifice.

"How can I quantify what reservists do?" Mersino asked. "Many of these guys pull money out of their own pockets just to wear the uniform. There has not been a contingency since World War II that reservists have not played a key role. EUCOM would fold if it weren't for them. They are a great asset."

Mersino told reservists that because augmentees come from different walks of life, they offer assistance that active duty personnel could not. He said the reservists are significant irreplaceable.

Maj. Gen. James Darden, director of Reservist Affairs, agreed that reservists come with two sets of skills in which they must stay proficient – those of a professional civilian and a trained soldier.

"Most people aren't here for the money," Darden said. "Although some employers may match the reservists' salary, many take a cut in pay to be here. They believe that they signed up for it so that's the way it is. I feel you can never do enough for the person who steps up to do this."

Not only do reservists take this cut in pay, Darden said, but they leave their families behind as well. "Morale calls are



**Maj. Gen. James Darden talks with two Reservists at the October morale call in the Back Lot Club on Patch Barracks.**

a time to recognize the contributions [that reservists make]," he said.

There are numerous reasons that reservists make the sacrifices that they do. Many felt that their company supported their volunteering for duty and that their families were also extremely encouraging. They also believed that they were needed at their duty station and were benefiting from the experience.

One reservist called to active duty after Sept. 11 is Lt. Col. Geraldine Jones, the deputy commandant for reservists at EUCOM. In "civilian life," she is the deputy director of the Civilian Personnel Center in Fort Riley, Kan. Jones is one of the many who are being asked to stay another year.

"I feel it's better to stay a second year rather than return to the States and then be sent back," she said. "My boss [in Kansas] is very supportive and feels that my military duty is very important. Once I got notice, he told me to go home and get ready to leave."

Sgt. Steven Sharkey, a student at the University of Texas, and Chief Warrant Officer Warren Hembrook, an assistance administrator for UNIX of Motorola, both from Austin, Texas said the Reserves are a great place to gain interesting experiences and travel.

Sharkey said the best part of reserve duty

*There has not been a contingency since World War II that reservists have not played a key role. They are a great asset.*

**Command Sgt. Maj. John Mersino**  
U.S. European Command

for him is that he is able to pursue his career goal of becoming a writer as well as be in the Army. He works in ECJ25 in Foreign Disclosure, while his colleague works in ECJ23-FA as an information operation action officer. "Active duty could not do what they do without us. Because of downsizing, reservists fill the slots that active duty cannot," said Hembrook.

Both encouraged people to "join up; we need all the help we can get. Serve your country."

Reservist Cdr. Steve Snyder has been at ECJ37 Assessments for one year. He was on active duty for eight years and has been in the reserves for 10. As a civilian he is the regional manager of Resun Leasing in Greensboro, N.C. Snyder said his company is very supportive, as is his family. He believed that his wife and two daughters miss him, but they understand why he must be here.

Snyder said the morale calls are great times to commiserate and celebrate together. "It's an opportunity to see folks from my unit, to see the new people who are arriving and say goodbye to the ones who are leaving."

Cdr. Greg Adams from Peachtree City, Ga., agreed, adding that benefits include networking with fellow reservists.

"My job [back in the States] has been very supportive," said Adams, a project manager for Singular Wireless. "I was paid a difference in salary and I got a bonus because my production team voted to share it, even though I was not there."

Both Snyder and Adams said their directorates have regarded them well. "I've enjoyed my time here and have got to do many different things," Adams said.

Reservist Lt. Col. Larry Rogers from Galveston, Texas said that he has also been able to do things he would not otherwise do at his stateside job as a healthcare information technology consultant.

"I spent nine months in Bosnia and it was the highlight of my [reserve] career," Rogers said.

## Tricare offers dental care for Reservists

Tricare Release

The Tricare Dental Program offers a wide range of dental services and is available to members and families of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve.

Enrollment in program is voluntary, and reserve-component sponsors do not have to be activated to enroll themselves or their families.

The program requires a 12-month enrollment commitment; however, this is waived for families whose sponsor is ordered to active duty in support of certain contingency operations

*For more information, access Tricare Dental Program's benefit handbook online at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com) or call 1-888-418-0466.*



# Fire substation opens on Panzer Kaserne

By Maria Higgins

A vacant building that used to serve as Panzer Kaserne’s community center is being transformed into a fire company substation for 6th Area Support Group Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

The substation, located in building 3180, will enable faster response times to calls on Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks, said Mike Schmidt, deputy director of the 6th ASG Directorate of Public Works.

Until now, the 6th ASG’s only fire station has been the one lodged at the Stuttgart Army Airfield, which is close to Kelley Barracks.

Calls from Panzer and Patch communities have been handled with the assistance of nearby host-nation fire departments. Calls from Robinson Barracks are automatically answered by these host-nation squads.

One fire truck will serve the Panzer substation. Initially, firefighters will continue to work only dayshifts, but round-the-clock operations are expected.

The decision to convert the Panzer center “is a good one, because it enhances life safety,” Schmidt said. It is also, he noted, a relatively inexpensive choice: The building is already outfitted with sleeping barracks and plenty of room for administrative offices and fire warden training.

Even personnel costs are expected to remain the same if plans to juggle existing shift schedules are successful. “We have enough manpower,” Schmidt said. The only expenses will be \$150,000 for a por-

‘*The substation will enable faster response times to calls on Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks.*

**Mike Schmidt**  
*6th ASG Directorate of Public Works*

table garage to house the truck, and roughly \$50,000 to upgrade the parking lot.

Even better, Schmidt said, is that the substation may actually save the Army money. Under the present Status of Forces Agreement, host nation fire departments charge a •500 fee for every false alarm to which they respond.

Schmidt estimates that 300 calls for emergency services go out from Patch, Panzer, Kelley, and Robinson barracks each year. This past year, 125 of these calls were false alarms.

The Panzer substation should prove an ideal facility, albeit a temporary one, Schmidt said. Plans for a permanent, multimillion-dollar station elsewhere on the installation are being discussed, he said, although such a project is years away from implementation.

Approval for the substation was granted by 6th ASG Commander Col. Larry Stubblefield Oct. 1. It is slated to be fully operational by Jan. 1, 2003.

## Fire safety in the kitchen

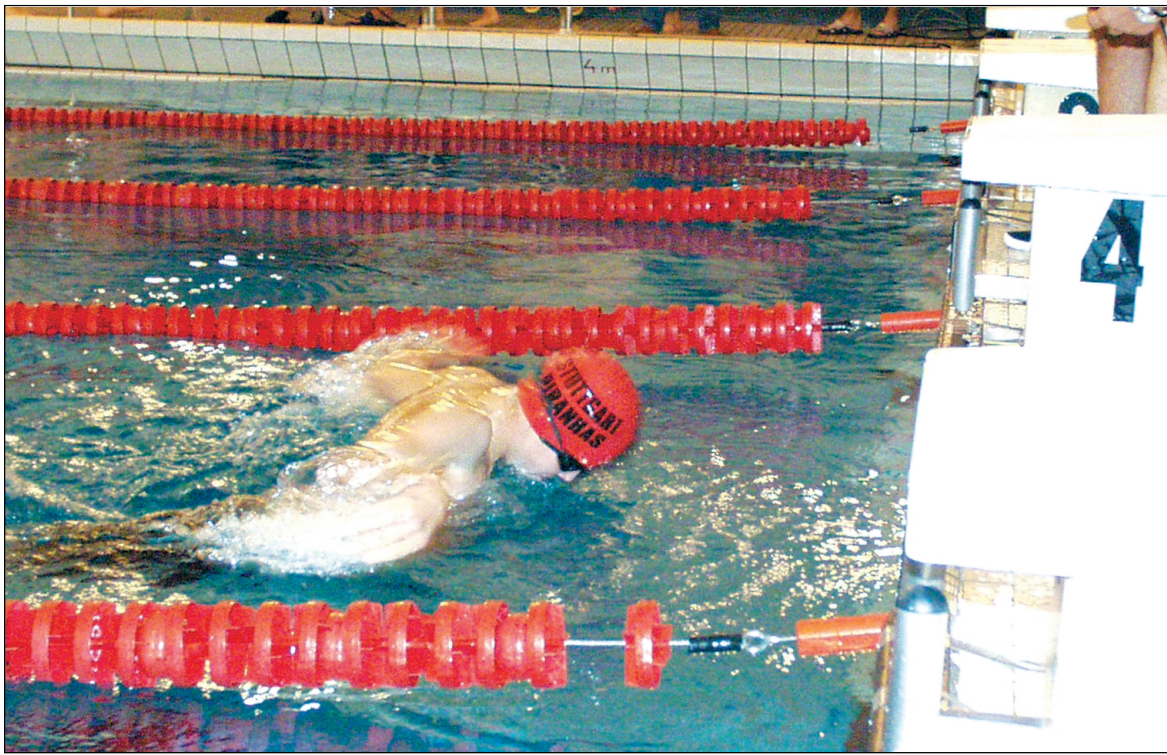
*Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Three in every 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen.*

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children and pets away from cooking areas by creating a 3-foot (1-meter) “kid-free zone” around the stove.
- Turn pot handles inward so they can’t be bumped and children can’t grab them.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and ignite.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner.
- Never pour water onto a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen.
- For oven fires, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- For microwave fires, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave.
- **Remember: The safety of individuals should always be the top priority. Call the fire department and evacuate to a safe distance.**



**6th ASG Fire Department**  
**117/civ. 0711-680-117**  
**[www.stuttgart.army.mil/dpw/fire](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/dpw/fire)**





**Brian Conner, 14, strives toward the finish of the 100-meter butterfly competition during the Stuttgart Piranhas' Oct. 12 meet against SHAPE in Belgium.**

# Stuttgart Piranhas make sacrifices, reap rewards

Story & photo by Melanie Casey  
Contributor

Imagine waking up at 5:30 a.m. three times a week, trudging in the cold, rainy darkness to a nearby pool and swimming more than a mile. Imagine giving up time for friends and social events to travel four or five hours on a bus for a swim meet nearly every weekend from September to February.

*Being a Piranha teaches teamwork and camaraderie at an early age.*

**Nancy Parnell**  
*Piranha mother*

Imagine making these sacrifices at 5 or 10 years of age.

Members of the Stuttgart Piranhas, a Department of Defense-sponsored swim team, make these and other sacrifices regularly. Unlike football or soccer, swimming is a somewhat invisible sport. There are no pep rallies, no cheerleaders, and no Saturday afternoon games on Husky Field.

Many community members may not even know of the Piranhas' existence. But for the swimmers, the sacrifices are worth being part of this unique team.

Neither formal swim team experience nor expert water skills are required to become a Piranha. As long as the swimmer is comfortable in the water and can swim 25 meters without assistance, he or she is welcome. Swimmers don't even need to try out.

In fact, the first month of practice is free because Head Coach Jeff Bentley wants the kids (and their parents) to be sure that they really want to swim before committing themselves.

Once a swimmer commits to the program, the work begins. This season, practices are offered seven times a week, three of which start at 6 a.m. While Bentley acknowledges that "preparing for competition ... takes a lot of practice and hard work," Piranhas are not required to attend specific practices or even meets.

Bentley realizes that parents and students sometimes have other obligations, and therefore does not demand a set number of practices in order for the children to be a part of the team.

However, high school students who want to earn a varsity letter in swimming must maintain a respectable grade point average and attend an average of four practices per week.

In addition to practices, Piranha swimmers take part in competitive meets, which give them a chance to participate in individual races as well as team competitions.

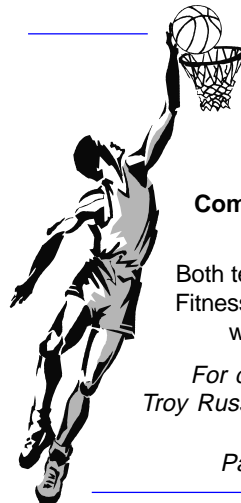
All swimmers who attend meets can participate in up to three individual races in their age group – most 50 or 100 meters long – and two relays. No one is left out.

For the youngest swimmers, 25-meter exhibition "races" are held. Ribbons are awarded to all heat winners as well as first through fourth place. At away meets, some of which this season have been as far away as Mons, Belgium, parents and swimmers have the option of riding the team bus or driving.

Many swimmers opt for the bus, which 16-year-old swimmer Jessi Parnell said "is the best part of the meets, because you get to play with your friends."

Jessi's mother, Nancy Parnell, said that being a part of the Piranhas "is a great opportunity [for kids] to meet and be with friends."

She also appreciates how being a Piranha teaches "teamwork and camaraderie...at an early age." And at an early hour, too.



## Stuttgart Stallions seek players

**Community basketball teams for men and women are now forming in Stuttgart.**

Both teams practice at 6:30 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center (men Mondays & Thursdays; women Wednesdays & Fridays).

For details about the men's team call  
Troy Russell at 430-5123/civ. 0711-680-5123.

For the women's team call  
Paris Nelson at 0170-984-7313.





# Thanksgiving ... truth or urban myth?

By Kimberly Lovins

For many, the Thanksgiving holiday conjures up images such as Pilgrims, Indians, turkey and all of the side dishes that go along with it. We are taught that it is a time to express all of the things we are thankful for, just as our forefathers did when they sat down with their Indian neighbors and shared a turkey dinner. However, is this vision of Thanksgiving truth or just another urban myth?

## The Holiday

According to the Plimoth Museum, the Pilgrims did have a feast after their first harvest in 1621, between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11, but they did not consider it a "thanksgiving." They also did not duplicate the feast, so it was not the beginning of a tradition. Thanksgiving to the Pilgrims was a day of fasting and prayer and was held anytime they felt they should give thanks to God. Regardless, we use this feast as a model for our traditional Thanksgiving.

As early as 1841 the Pilgrim harvest was identified as the first American Thanksgiving; however, it focused on turkeys, Yankee dinners and family reunions rather than Pilgrims sitting at the table giving thanks. Also, whenever the image of Pilgrims appeared in popular art or books, the illustration was one of violent confrontation between the colonists and Native Americans. Only after the turn of the century, when the western Indian wars were over and the Native Americans were "disappearing," did the romantic representation of the two cultures sitting together at the table become popular.

In the 1900s, the Victorians searched for a predecessor to the contemporary Thanksgiving holiday. They believed the Pil-



Pilgrim Hall Museum

***This painting by Jennie A. Brownscombe (1850-1936) with its elements of religious solemnity, feasting and community has a strong emotional appeal even today and shows a Thanksgiving with which early twentieth century Americans would feel comfortable.***

grim celebration was perfect regardless that the event had not been considered a "thanksgiving" by the Pilgrims themselves. Thus, the holiday's connection with the Pilgrims.

Thanksgiving, the national holiday, was declared by the Continental Congress in 1777. However, according to Historychannel.com the holiday reverted to a regional observance in 1863, when two national "Thanksgivings" were declared. One celebrated the victory of Gettysburg on Aug. 6 and the other was the Thanksgiving we are familiar with – the one celebrated on the last Thursday in November – which was de-

## "Pilgrim Pudding"

This dish is based on John Winthrop Jr.'s 1662 *Letter to the Royal Society* in London. The ingredients include cracked hominy and dried blueberries, and are prepared after the manner of a rice or hasty pudding:

"... this is to be boyled or Stued with a gentle fire, till it be tender, of a fitt consistence, as of Rice so boyled, into which Milke, or butter be put either with Sugar or without it, it is a food very pleasant. . . but it must be observed that it be very well boyled, the longer the better, some will let it be stuing the whole day: after it is Cold it groweth thicker, and is commonly Eaten by mixing a good Quantity of Milke amongst it. . ."

clared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939.

## The Table

The Pilgrim's feast lasted three days and included about 90 Native Americans. The meal that the Pilgrims and Wampanoag shared is not well documented, so it is not really known what was served. It is most likely that wild fowl and venison was on the table, but other unknown elements of the meal can be historically estimated.

There is a reference to the first Thanksgiving meal from a book published in 1622, "A Relation or Journal of the beginning and proceedings of the English Plantation settled at Plimoth [sic] in NEW ENGLAND, by certaine [sic] English Aduenturers [sic] both Merchants and others for John Bellamie." In this journal besides the fowl and venison, Indian corn is mentioned. Other foodstuffs such as cheese, wild grapes, lobster, cod, melons, and pumpkins could also have been part of meal.